

## Veterans News

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### GOVERNOR ISSUES STATEMENTS ON DEATHS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL



02/18/09

#### **Governor Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Tracy Marine**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today issued the following statement regarding the death of Sergeant Daniel L. Hansen of Tracy:

"Sergeant Daniel Hansen fought tirelessly to defend the values of freedom and liberty that define our nation. He was a courageous Marine who dedicated his life to serving his fellow Americans and his sacrifice will always be remembered. Maria and I offer our thoughts and prayers to Daniel's family and friends as they mourn this terrible loss."

Hansen, 24, died February 14 while supporting combat operations in Farah province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Air Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, U.S. Marine Corps, Iwakuni, Japan.

In honor of Sgt. Hansen, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



02/18/09

#### **Governor Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Dublin Soldier**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today issued the following statement regarding the death of Staff Sergeant Sean D. Diamond of Dublin:

"Maria and I are deeply saddened by the loss of Staff Sergeant Sean Diamond. He was a brave soldier who sacrificed his life while defending our nation's freedom and his service and loyalty to our country will not be forgotten. On behalf of all Californians, we offer our sincere condolences to Sean's family, friends and fellow soldiers during this difficult time."

Diamond, 41, died February 15 in As Salam, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 610th Engineer Support Company, 14th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, U.S. Army, Fort Lewis, WA.

In honor of Staff Sgt. Diamond, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



01/28/09

#### **Governor Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Corona Soldier**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today issued the following statement regarding the death of Private Grant A. Cotting of Corona:

"Private Grant Cotting was a courageous soldier who dedicated his life to serving his fellow Americans and protecting our country's freedom. His sacrifice is an inspiration to us all and his bravery will forever be remembered. Maria and I join all Californians in offering our thoughts and prayers to Grant's family and friends as they mourn this terrible loss."

Cotting, 19, died January 24 in Kut, Iraq, of injuries sustained from a non-combat related incident. Cotting was assigned to the 515th Sapper Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, U.S. Army, Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

In honor of Pvt. Cotting, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



01/20/09

#### **Governor Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Solvang Soldier**

Governor Schwarzenegger today issued the following statement regarding the death of Staff Sergeant Joshua R. Townsend of Solvang:

"Maria and I were saddened to learn of the passing of Staff Sergeant Joshua Townsend. He was a dedicated soldier who committed his life to defending the freedoms that our nation was founded on and his service will never be forgotten. On behalf of all Californians, we send our deepest condolences to Joshua's friends and family."

Townsend, 30, died January 16 in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained in a non-combat related incident. Townsend was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), U.S. Army, Fort Bragg, NC.

In honor of Staff Sgt. Townsend, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



01/01/09

#### **Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Concord Soldier**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Pvt. Benjamin B. Tollefson, of Concord:

"Maria and I were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Private Benjamin Tollefson, who dedicated his life to protecting the ideals of this country. He was a true patriot and his service to our country will never be forgotten. On behalf of all Californians, we send our thoughts and prayers to Benjamin's family, friends and fellow soldiers as they mourn this loss."

Tollefson, 22, died December 31 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with indirect fire in Ghazaliya. Tollefson was assigned to the Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, U.S. Army, Fort Riley, KS.

In honor of Pvt. Tollefson, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



12/31/08

**Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Newman Soldier**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Spc. Tony J. Gonzales, of Newman, CA:

"Specialist Tony Gonzales was a courageous soldier who sacrificed his life to defend our nation's freedom. His bravery and loyal service are an inspiration to us all and his efforts to protect our country will always be remembered. Maria and I join all Californians in sending our thoughts and prayers to Tony's family and friends during this difficult time."

Gonzales, 20, died December 28 in Sadr City, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, U.S. Army, Baumholder, Germany.

In honor of Spc. Gonzales, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



12/30/08

**Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Camp Pendleton Marine**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Lance Cpl. Robert L. Johnson, of Central Point, OR:

"We lost a courageous Marine in Lance Corporal Robert Johnson who sacrificed his life to preserve the values of freedom and liberty that define our nation. We are indebted to Robert for his dedicated service and his efforts to defend our country will not be forgotten. Maria and I join all Californians in offering our deepest condolences to Robert's family and friends as they mourn this terrible loss."

Johnson, 21, died December 20 as a result of a non-hostile incident in Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to the 5th Combat Logistics Battalion, 1st Combat Logistics Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group, U.S. Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In honor of Lance Cpl. Johnson, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



11/21/08

**Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Camp Pendleton Marine**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Gunnery Sgt. Marcelo R. Velasco, of Miami, FL:

"Maria and I are deeply saddened by the loss of Gunnery Sergeant Marcelo Velasco. He was a courageous Marine who dedicated his life to preserving our nation's freedom. His loyal service to our country is an inspiration to us all and his sacrifice will not be forgotten. We join all Californians in offering our thoughts and prayers to Marcelo's family and friends during this difficult time."

Velasco, 40, died November 19 from injuries sustained in a non-hostile incident in Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, I MEF, U.S. Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA. The incident is currently under investigation.

In honor of Gunnery Sgt. Velasco, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



11/18/2008

**Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Camp Pendleton Marine**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Cpl. Aaron M. Allen, of Buellton:

"Corporal Aaron Allen answered the highest call to duty by dedicating his life to defending our freedoms. He served our country proudly and bravely and we are forever indebted to his honorable sacrifice. Maria and I join all Californians in sending our deepest condolences to Aaron's family, friends and fellow soldiers as they mourn this tremendous loss. "

Allen, 24, died November 14 while supporting combat operations in Anbar province, Iraq. Allen was assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division, U.S. Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton, CA.

In honor of Cpl. Allen, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



11/18/09

**Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Los Angeles Soldier**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Sgt. Jose Regalado, of Los Angeles:

"Maria and I were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Sergeant Jose Regalado, who bravely sacrificed his life while protecting our country. He fought with pride and courage and we will never forget his dedication

and sacrifice. On behalf of all Californians, we send out thoughts and prayers to Jose's family and friends during this difficult time."

Regalado, 23, died November 12 in Mosul, Iraq, when an Iraqi Army soldier wearing a uniform approached them and opened fire. Regalado was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, U.S. Army, Fort Hood, Texas.

In honor of Sgt. Regalado, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



11/14/08

**Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Riverside Soldier**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Spc. Armando A. De La Paz, of Riverside:

"Specialist Armando De La Paz was a brave soldier who dedicated his life to preserving the liberty of his fellow citizens. He served our country with pride and courage and his sacrifice will never be forgotten. On behalf of all Californians, Maria and I send our thoughts and prayers to Armando's family and friends as they mourn this terrible loss."

De La Paz, 21, died Nov. 13 in Baghdad, of injuries sustained during a vehicle roll-over. De La Paz was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, U.S. Army, Fort Carson, CO.

In honor of Spc. Armando A. De La Paz, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



11/03/08

**Gov. Schwarzenegger Issues Statement on Death of Twentynine Palms Marine**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Cpl. Jason A. Karella of Anchorage, AK:

"Corporal Jason Karella was a brave patriot who defended his country with commitment and determination. Californians will never forget his noble service and we are forever indebted to his sacrifice. Maria and I join all Californians in sending our thoughts and prayers to Jason's family and friends as they mourn this tremendous loss."

Karella, 20, died October 9 while supporting combat operations in Farah province, Afghanistan. Karella was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, U.S. Marine Corps, Twentynine Palms, CA.

In honor of Cpl. Karella, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

